

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

**Comment On:** EBSA-2010-0018-0002

Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

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## General Comment

On August 1, 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that certain preventative health services for women must be included by insurers and employers providing health insurance. Among these benefits are contraceptive methods and counseling. HHS also included a narrowly defined exemption to the contraceptive coverage for "religious employers."

Do not stirp or weaken the requirement for contraceptive methods and counseling from the new regulations. To do so would mean that countless women would be left without preventative health coverage because of who their employer is, not because of their own religious beliefs.

Please stop religious discrimination in law that disadvantages these women from receiving preventative health services from employers based on the employers' religious beliefs, not their own beliefs.

Thank you.